

Eastern Illinois University

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MOVIE NIGHT

The Homecoming Committee is showing two movies Saturday to wrap up Homecoming Week.

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UNCERTAIN FUTURE

The cross country teams continue to train with no clear idea of what is to come.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Friday, October 2, 2020

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

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CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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Eastern set to crown new royalty Friday

By Daniel Jones

Contributing Reporter | @DEN_news

Many students and faculty were unsure about whether homecoming was going to take place this year, but it has been in full effect this week with activities that follow safety guidelines.

One of those events, coronation, is set to be the height of the week, as it has been in recent years.

Usually taking place during the pep rally, coronation will look a bit different this year.

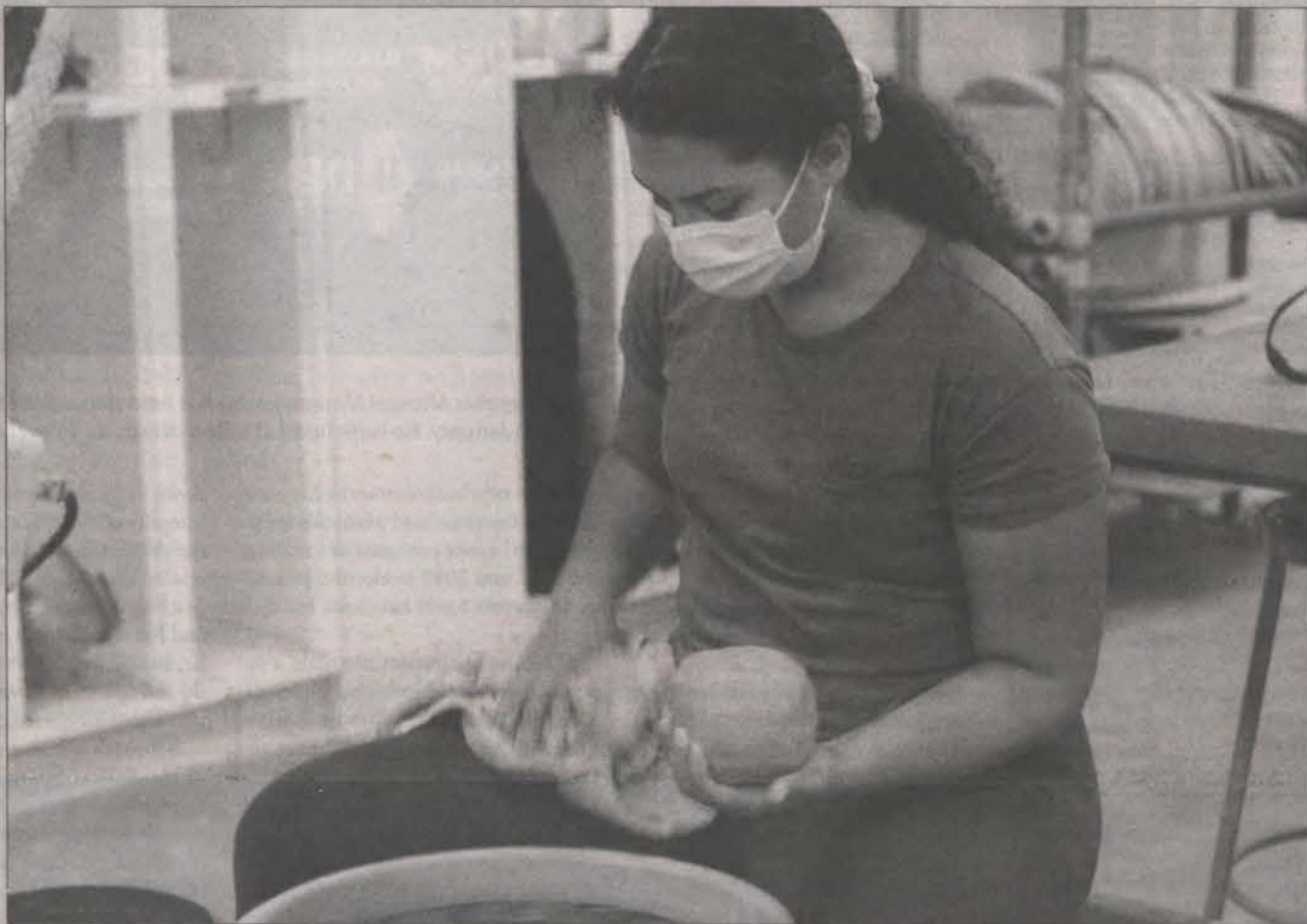
Students can expect to see their school royalty crowned virtually Friday at 7 p.m. via Facebook.

"The reason for this is because we wanted to limit how much contact everyone has with one another, as well as limit the spread of COVID-19. So, we are going to do a social media review" said Lulu Shimonde, a senior psychology major who is serving as the coronation and elections chair this year.

Shimonde said that doing coronation virtually it will hopefully get the Eastern community engaged since the homecoming committee is keeping quiet about it, hoping

CORONATION, page 3

Artistic process



MIRANDA MARTINEZ | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kendra Moore, a junior art education major, works on her art project in Dounda Hall Thursday evening. Moore calls the process "throwing bowls" before heating up the clay.

O'Brien Field's namesake has long history at Eastern

By Kyara Morales-Rodriguez

Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

O'Brien Field, Eastern Illinois University's 10,000-seat multi-purpose stadium, has been a part of Eastern since it first opened 50 years ago.

The field has a long history of Eastern-hosted events and renovations. Even the person it was named after comes with his own story.

Originally opened as Lincoln Field in 1970, the stadium's purpose was to be the home for the university's football and the track and field teams.

The stadium also plays host to the annual Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Finals in track and field which features nearly 5,000 competitors and over 15,000 spectators.

A regional Special Olympics is also held in the stadium every year.

Since its original construction, it has had tons of renovations done.

In 1986, the \$440,000 "Brighten O'Brien" fundraising campaign added lights and another level onto the press box.

In 1999, a \$2 million "Reach for the 21st Century" renovation was completed, providing new offices for coaches, meeting and video rooms, locker room, expanded weight room, and expanded athletic training facilities.

Further renovations were made in 2004 and 2009, installing an artificial turf field and a state of the art scoreboard, respectively.

The field is now known as the O'Brien Field, named after late Maynard "Pat" O'Brien upon O'Brien's retirement in June 1974.

In 1946, O'Brien came to Eastern following

his release from the Navy.

During World War II, he had spent 3 and a half years fighting alongside the Navy, leaving with the rank of lieutenant commander.

O'Brien had a legendary run at Eastern, being a member of Eastern's athletic department from 1946 to 1974.

During his time at Eastern, he performed duties as a professor of physical education and coached track, football and cross country.

During his time coaching the track team, he brought Eastern 121 victories, 45 defeats and 1 tie. As the head football coach, he compiled a career record of 27 victories, 51 defeats and 1 tie.

His position as head cross country coach brought him overwhelming success and recognition through the years, with his team winning numerous championships.

In fact, his 1968 and 1969 squads won two consecutive NCAA College Division Championships, an accomplishment unparalleled by any other Eastern sports team at the time.

O'Brien is not just remembered for his win and loss records as a coach, but for his work as the Chairman of the Department of Men's Physical Education, which he was selected for in 1965. Under his leadership, the department developed and approved two new degree programs.

During this time, he also served as the university's representative for the construction of the Lantz Building and the field.

O'Brien received many accolades, in 1964, he was selected "Track Coach of the Year" by the NAIA.

He was also selected as Daily Eastern News' "Man of the Year" in 1968, and in 1971, he was



CREATIVE COMMONS PHOTO

Former Eastern track and field, cross country and football coach Maynard "Pat" O'Brien, who was at Eastern from 1946 until 1974.

awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award for his many years dedicated to Eastern's athletic department.

Upon joining Eastern, his colleagues, fellow coaches, and the students under his supervision quickly learned that he was firm, honest, fair and

an industrious individual.

He had the respect, trust and confidence of all those around him through the years.

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Local weather

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Partly Cloudy
High: 59°
Low: 38°



Mostly Cloudy
High: 62°
Low: 47°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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STATE NEWS

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Fellow Democrat to challenge Madigan as speaker; House GOP pushes for subpoenas

By Jerry Nowicki
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — The longest-serving state legislative speaker in U.S. history will have a challenger from his own party in January.

The Thursday announcement that Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, would challenge Chicago Democrat Michael Madigan as Illinois House Speaker came just an hour before Republicans called a news conference to lay out their next steps in a noncriminal legislative probe of Madigan.

Kifowit's challenge to the speaker, who has held the position for all but two years since 1983, comes months after utility giant Commonwealth Edison admitted in a court agreement to handing out jobs and contracts worth \$1.3 million to close Madigan associates in an effort to curry his favor for legislation that benefited the company.

After the ComEd news broke in July, Kifowit and a handful of others in the House Democratic caucus called on the speaker to resign his leadership position in the House. But Madigan reportedly called caucus members and said the "candid conversations" produced "positive feedback" which demonstrated "continued support for me and my leadership roles."

At the beginning of each two-year General Assembly, the House chooses its speaker. A candidate would need a motion and a second to be considered by the body, and the speaker is elected by a majority vote of the 118-member House.

Madigan's support for the position



FILE PHOTO | CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

House Speaker Michael Madigan, who has held that position for all but two years since 1983, will have a challenger in January. He is pictured at a Democratic Party event in Springfield last year.

has been near-unanimous in his party through the years, and when the speaker received a lone present vote in each of the 2017 and 2019 re-election processes, the events made headlines for their rarity.

If House Democrats maintain a supermajority after November elections, Madigan could lose votes from more than 10 Democrats and still have the necessary threshold to get re-elected.

"Based on my values, I was compelled on July 30 of this year to write a letter to Speaker Madigan stating that the right thing for him to do is to step

down as speaker for compromising the integrity of the office and undermining the public trust," Kifowit said in a news release Thursday. "The response from Michael Madigan was to double down and has remained. It is clear to me that he doesn't hold the same values that I do and falls short of what the public expects from an elected official."

Kifowit's comments echoed those of House Republicans who launched a Special Investigating Committee in late August to probe the speaker's ComEd ties. While Madigan has not been criminally charged and has denied wrongdoing,

the House Republicans are seeking to prove through the committee that the speaker has participated in "conduct unbecoming to a legislator or which constitutes a breach of public trust."

Others in Madigan's party — including the three Democrats named by Majority Leader Greg Harris, D-Chicago, to the investigating committee — have proven to still be supportive. Reps. Emanuel "Chris" Welch of Hillside, Elizabeth Hernandez of Cicero and Natalie Manley of Joliet have pushed back on claims that Madigan's conduct was inappropriate.

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2 movies to be shown Saturday for Homecoming

By Kyara-Morales Rodriguez
Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

The University Board's Homecoming Committee will be hosting a Drive-In(side) Movie Night on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

At this event, they will be showing two movies, one at the Union's Grand Ballroom and the other at the University Ballroom.

The movies selected for the night, "Mean Girls" and "Back to the Future," providing members of the Eastern community with two different types of movies for their enjoyment.

At the movie night, attendees will also have the opportunity to win Homecoming prizes and giveaways.

Free refreshments like soda and popcorn will also be provided for the night.

Holly Olson, junior business management student and University Board Homecoming Chair, explained that this event was chosen because it would be a fun way to celebrate Homecoming Week together while still following the safety guidelines set by Eastern to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Due to the guidelines, this homecoming event will run on a first-come, first-serve basis until full capacity is reached. Olson explained that attendees will have to pre-register online in order to attend the event.

The registration link can be found on Eastern's online Homecoming 2020 event listing.

"We have to have a limit coming in and out of the ballrooms for social distancing purposes," Olson said.

She said that attendees will be expected to remain six feet apart throughout the entire night.

Signs will be provided throughout the ballrooms to notify people how to properly follow social distancing guidelines.

"Students will be expected to stay six feet apart the entire time, so when they are waiting in line to check in or waiting in line for snacks," Olson said. "Masks will also be required to be properly worn covering the nose and the mouth at all times."

The movie night is the last event scheduled for Homecoming Week this year.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or knmoralesrodriguez@eiu.edu.

PMB to perform fall concert Saturday

Staff Report | @DEN_news

The Panther Marching Band will host their annual fall concert Saturday.

The marching band will perform at O'Brien Stadium with a private, limited audience attending.

The performance will be live streamed on the Doudna Fine Arts Center YouTube.

The marching band will perform its traditional pregame show includ-

ing "Runaway Baby," "September" and "Believer" as well as new section favorites like "Starships," "Tom Sawyer" by Rush and "Through the Fire and Flames" by DragonForce.

Color guard members will perform solos and as a full ensemble in several features and will be joined by the Pink Panther Dance Team and Eastern cheer squad.

The News Staff can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

» CORONATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to bring an element of surprise. Unlike recent years where nominees would have to participate in an interview process, Shimonde said this year's nominees only had to write an essay and promote themselves on social media.

Shimonde said that she felt having not only coronation, but homecoming in general, was very needed in this time of crisis.

"I feel like with COVID-19 a lot of people lost a lot of things, including our sense of normalcy," she said.

She also said that with the cancelling of so many student activities already such as football and the pep rally, she's hoping the homecoming fills that void for students.

"But cancelling homecoming all together I feel would've been a great loss because it would've felt like we're moving through time with no sense of—we're just moving, we're just going," Shimonde said. "Whereas having fun stuff that happens and gives us that nice escape is really nice to have especially when it's so COVID friendly for everybody to participate in."

Shimonde said students should check the EIU Homecoming social media pages for a big reveal involving coronation and highly encourages students to come out to the in-person events if they feel comfortable enough to do so.

Daniel Jones can be reached at 581-2812 or at dejones@eiu.edu.

CAA meets Thursday

Staff Report | @DEN_news

The Council on Academic Affairs met via Blackboard Collaborate Thursday for the first time since Sept. 10.

The council voted to eliminate the General Studies Option in Child Care Education due to a new minor.

Other items acted upon in the meeting included revisions to a mathematics course and the introduction of a new mathematics course.

The revisions were made to MAT 1270 Intermediate Algebra and consisted of adjusting to catalog to remove synthetic division from the course and to make the content of the course clearer.

The new course will be MAT 1410, a course that will seek to simplify the process by which students

advance to calculus courses, according to Marshall Lassak, mathematics professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences.

"For a number of years our department has offered two courses, a pre-calculus course that was three credits and a trigonometry course that was two credits, that students had to complete if they did not place into Calculus I but they were beyond College Algebra," he said.

The new course will basically combine these two courses.

There was also a discussion item in the meeting, which covered hybrid delivery formats for courses.

The council is scheduled to meet again Oct. 8.

The News Staff can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Tiegen was brave to be open about her miscarriage

Model and entrepreneur Chrissy Tiegen made an emotional post on Instagram Wednesday to announce that her pregnancy had ended in a miscarriage.

Tiegen and her husband, musician John Legend, posted on their social media accounts that they were "in the kind of deep pain you only hear about, the kind of pain we've never felt before."

Tiegen's announcement was met with widespread support from fans and fellow celebrities, but unfortunately not everyone was so supportive.

Online conspiracy theorists and some of the more radical people who oppose abortion responded negatively, implying in some cases that this was "revenge" for a debunked conspiracy theory that linked Tiegen with Jeffrey Epstein.

Others used Tiegen's announcement to make arguments against abortion or call Tiegen a hypocrite for supporting a woman's right to choose.

Additionally, even more people accused her of using her miscarriage to

get likes on social media.

We at *The Daily Eastern News* believe that Tiegen was very brave to share her experience, one that so many people have also gone through.

According to the Mayo Clinic, about 10 or 20% of known pregnancies end in miscarriage. It is a very common thing, which of course does not diminish the pain of the people who experience it.

It is important to remove the stigma that still surrounds miscarriages.

They are often caused when a fetus does not develop properly, many times as a result of missing or having too many chromosomes. These issues can occur naturally as the embryo grows and divides early in a pregnancy.

People who experience miscarriages may feel a tremendous amount of emotional pain, in addition to possible physical side effects, and should not be needlessly shamed by people, whether their criticism is fueled by insane conspiracies or just ignorance of the problem.

COLUMN

Disney's recent layoffs are hurting thousands

We've officially entered the autumn months so now is the time to reflect on the excitement of summer 2020. Or the lack thereof. While a normal summer would be filled with vacations, partying and relaxation, many of us likely had a summer stuck at home binge-watching Netflix. Obviously, this is due to the global pandemic and economic shutdown that led to the temporary closure of many businesses. One particular vacation spot that suffered was Disney's theme parks and resorts. The low crowd turnout and recovering from the shutdown has led to Disney making drastic changes to its parks.

Back in April of 2020 Disney was able to furlough thousands of employees who were unable to work and continued to give them health care and other benefits for nearly 6 months. Since that time has passed the Florida theme parks were able to reopen partially, but California's parks have remained closed because of the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Orange County. Even with the Florida location reopened, Disney did not get the public return they were hoping for, a return that would hope-



Destiny Blanchard

fully make up for the 91% loss in profit Disney's parks saw in the early months of this year.

After analyzing its ability to continue as normal without losing even more money, Disney made a devastating decision. In a memo sent to employees, the head of Disney's parks, Josh D'Amaro, announced that they'd be laying off 28,000 people across all park locations. Both parks in Florida and California will be impacted by this. This cut will be noticeable as the parks have a combined 142,000 employees between them. Job losses are set to start by Dec. 4th.

This is especially concerning because 67% of those losing their jobs would be

employees who are part-time or paid by the hour. These are the people who need their jobs more than executive and employees on salaries.

It seems appropriate to applaud Disney for being considerate enough to furlough employees for six months of the pandemic, and allowing many employees to come back for the few months they reopened. However, I think that the amount of employees losing their jobs seems suspicious considering that other areas of Disney as a whole have been doing well despite the conditions of the pandemic. Disney's streaming platform, Disney+, has taken advantage of every opportunity to make more money, and they continue to find ways to release and produce new movies.

It seems to me like they aren't as willing as a company to put a little more effort into ensuring that these lower-level employees have a place of work than they are to keeping their entertainment business at the top of their priority list.

Destiny Blanchard is a junior management major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or dblanchard@eiu.edu.

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Friday, 10.02.2020

Cross country teams continuing training

By Adam Tumino
Editor-in-Chief | @adam_tumino

The Eastern men's and women's cross country teams have continued their training this semester as if there is a season taking place.

The status of the season is still very much up in the air, as competing in cross country in the winter or spring would interfere with indoor track and field season in the winter and the outdoor season in the spring, assuming one or both of those seasons will even be able to happen.

Eastern athletes who participate in both cross country and track and field have to keep their minds open to any number of possibilities that may occur.

Maggie McPherson, a senior on the women's cross country and track and field teams, said the lack of competitions this fall has not really changed training.

"It hasn't really trained too much. There's a lot of uncertainty that's hard to deal with, but as far as training we're still doing just as much as we normally would," she said.

Andrew Pilat, a junior on the men's cross country and track and field teams, said that there has been some things the team has had to get used to this semester.

"It's been a little odd," he said. "There's just been this adjustment period, like people don't really know what we're running for. But



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Eastern cross country teammates Katie Springer (left) Sarah Carr (right) run together ahead a small pack of runners in a 5K race. Springer finished 11th and Carr finished 10th in the event at the EIU Walt Crawford Open Sept. 6, 2019.

we've all kind of come together and we know that we're going to have races eventually."

Pilat and many other of the cross country runners also are on the track and field teams, and compete in the fall, winter and spring. The men's track and field team was coming off an OVC Indoor Championship in February when the out-

door spring season was canceled.

"Coming off indoor we were all on this really big high, we were looking forward to win the outdoor championships as well," he said. "We still have this championship mentality that we're going to be able to win no matter when our next season is."

McPherson is a senior this year,

and she said she was looking forward to whatever comes next with both cross country and track and field.

"I'm really excited for track. I always have been, especially since we didn't get a (spring) season last year," she said. "Cross country, if we run it in the winter, it would be an experience for sure and def-

initely a good way to end my senior year with something I've never done before. It would be something new.

McPherson also said that she is excited to compete in whatever way the teams are able to.

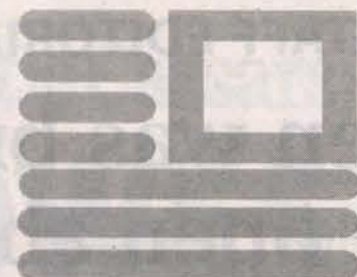
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